



# Debris Management Plan



Everyone thinks they know or will know how to handle anything that is thrown their way. Sadly, as seen by the devastation from Hurricane Katrina, it's not always true. Plans themselves do not always work the way they are intended to, especially if you can't control all the elements involved. A proper planning process requires consideration of all possible elements and is of itself, priceless.

After years of fires, earthquakes and civil unrest, resulting in tons of debris, emergency management realized the need for a systems approach to debris management. This approach emphasizes the interdependency and connectivity of all aspects of debris management. The incorporation of debris management into local emergency planning activities is an essential element of disaster preparedness and cost-effective response and recovery operations.

To maximize resources while minimizing the debris load to landfills following a disaster, local government is encouraged to incorporate debris management in their emergency and solid waste management planning activities. As part of the planning process, local government should identify jurisdictional characteristics, potential disaster types, event characteristics and the debris anticipated as a result. Local emergency plans should be coordinated with solid waste planning to include debris management strategies, reuse and recycling opportunities, quantity estimations, landfill capacities, landfill class/type and potential temporary storage sites.

Successful debris planning efforts will result in more efficient use of limited resources, timely access to critical infrastructure and environmentally safe solutions to debris issues.

## Plan Considerations

The main considerations of the plan should take into account:



- The type(s) of disaster(s) that potentially might occur, or have occurred, in your community
- The magnitude of a disaster will require varying levels of resources – therefore, must consider:
  - o Supplemental assistance available from local, State or Federal programs and resources
  - o In-house capability to respond to varying magnitudes
  - o The types of supplemental assistance that is available from mutual-aid agreements, the State Department of Transportation, or other external resources
  - o The size and number of contracts that may be required
- Determine the level of detail to provide in the Plan and how to handle contingencies



- ☞ Local and state emergency managers are encouraged to develop a debris management plan for their communities in anticipation of potential disaster events.
- ☞ The primary purpose of the plan is to define roles of essential agencies and personnel necessary to execute debris clearance, removal and disposal activities.
- ☞ The plan provides a process to assess the magnitude and type of debris resulting from an event.
- ☞ It is also essential that debris management planning activities become an integral part of other emergency planning activities within the jurisdiction. Local governments should also participate in neighboring emergency planning activities, regional emergency planning activities and mutual aid planning to ensure the appropriate risks are factored into the planning process. Toward this end, Cal EMA can provide technical assistance to local governments and facilitate the integration of state and federal requirements into these planning efforts.



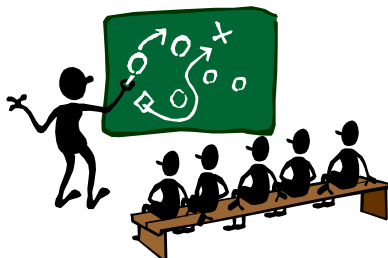
DISASTER RELIEF

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At a minimum, a good debris plan should incorporate and/or address the following elements:

## I. Staff Roles and Responsibilities

- Staffing Organizational Chart
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Health and Safety Plan and Procedures
- Training schedule



## II. Situation and Assumptions

- Design Disaster Event
- Forecasted debris

## III. Debris Collection Plan

- Priorities
- Response Operations
- Recovery Operations
  1. Estimating staff, procedures and assignments
  2. Collection Method
  3. Collecting Hazardous Waste and White Goods
  4. Monitoring Staff and Assignments

## IV. Debris Management Sites

- A. Site Management
- B. Establishment and Operations Planning
  1. Permits
  2. Locations
  3. Site Layouts
  4. Site Preparation
  5. Site Layout
  6. Volume Reduction Methods
  7. Recycling
  8. Environmental Monitoring Program
  9. Site Closure

## V. Contracted Services

- A. Emergency Contracting/Procurement Procedures
- B. Debris operations to be outsourced
- C. General Contract Provisions
- D. Qualification Requirements
- E. Solicitation of Contractors

## VI. Private Property Demolition and Debris Removal

- A. Condemnation criteria and procedures
- B. Mobile home park procedures
- C. Navigation hazard removal procedures

## VII. Public Information Plan

- A. Public Information Officer
- B. Pre-scripted information
- C. Distribution plan



## Additional Resources

- [CalEMA Concept of Operations](#)
- [Debris Removal Flyer](#)
- [Private Property Debris Removal](#)
- [Debris Contracts Flyer](#)
- [Debris Forecasting Flyer](#)
- [Debris Estimating Flyer](#)
- [Temporary Debris Storage Site Flyer](#)
- [Debris Management Plan Flyer](#)
- [CalEMA Debris Training Manual](#)

## Web Sites

[www.calema.ca.gov](http://www.calema.ca.gov)  
[www.calrecycle.ca.gov](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov)  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)



**Got Questions or Want  
Debris Plan Training?**

## **Contact:**

**Melinda Stehr**  
**Debris Coordinator**  
**Desk: 916.845.8274**  
**Cell: 916.265.8205**  
**Email:**  
**Melinda.Stehr@calema.ca.gov**



## **Regulations:**

*CDAA Section 2915*  
*44 CFR, Section 206.224*  
*Stafford Act, Sections 403 & 407*

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